

March 29, 2001

SECY-01-0056

For: The Commissioners

From: John W. Craig, Assistant for Operations, Office of the EDO

Subject: SECY-01-0056 WEEKLY INFORMATION REPORT - WEEK
ENDING MARCH 23, 2001

Contents

Enclosure

Nuclear Reactor Regulation	A
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	B
Nuclear Regulatory Research	C
Incident Response Operations	D
General Counsel	E*
Administration	F
Chief Information Officer	G
Chief Financial Officer	H
Human Resources	I
Small Business & Civil Rights	J*
Enforcement	K*
State and Tribal Programs	L*
Public Affairs	M
International Programs	N
Office of the Secretary	O
Region I	P
Region II	P
Region III	P*
Region IV	P
Executive Director for Operations	Q*
Congressional Affairs	R

*No input this week.

/RA/

John W. Craig
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

Contact:
S. Rosenberg, OEDO

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Arkansas Nuclear One

On March 12, 2001, the NRC staff met with Mr. John McGaha, President of Entergy Operations, Inc., to discuss issues associated with the collection of decommissioning funds for Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) and possibly other nuclear plants. The Arkansas Public Service Commission (PSC) issued an order last year that disallowed the collection from ratepayers of funds for the decommissioning of Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2. The PSC decision was based on the fact that Entergy has applied to renew the operating license for ANO Unit 1 and the opinion of the PSC that sufficient decommissioning funds would accrue over the station's extended operating life (which was assumed to be 60 years). Inherent in the decision is an assumption that the NRC will grant the pending application for ANO Unit 1 and that the licensee will apply and be granted a renewed license for ANO Unit 2. Mr. McGaha and Mr. Jager Smith, legal counsel for the licensee, also expressed a concern that the Louisiana PSC is considering a similar order even though license renewal applications for River Bend and Waterford Unit 3 are currently in the planning stage. The licensee also stated that while the license renewal process might allow operation for up to 60 years, the actual operating life may be shorter and therefore the actions of the state commissions may result in shortfalls in the decommissioning funds at the time of permanent shutdown. The licensee and staff, including a representative from the Office of the General Counsel, discussed the issue in the context of NRC regulations and regulatory guidance documents. The licensee stated that they would be submitting their biennial decommissioning funding report for ANO which will report a predicted shortfall and that they will likely request a formal interpretation of NRC regulations in this area.

Florida Power & Light (FPL) and Entergy

NRC staff met with representatives of FPL and Entergy on March 19, 2001. The licensees provided an overview of the proposed merger, which will result in formation of a new holding company ("WCB Holding Corporation"), with three subsidiaries - FPL Group, Entergy Corporation, and WCB Operations, Inc. WCB Operations, Inc. will have operating responsibility for the FPL plants (Turkey Point and St. Lucie) and the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulated Entergy plants (River Bend, Waterford, ANO, and Grand Gulf). The state PUC non-regulated Entergy plants will be operated by Entergy Corporation subsidiaries, Entergy Nuclear Generating Corp. (Pilgrim), and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Indian Point 1, 2, 3 and Fitzpatrick). Applications were submitted on March 2, 2001, for the direct and indirect license transfers, which will be required by the merger. The licensees have requested NRC approval by September 1, in order to support their target date for completing the merger (October 1). However, at the beginning of the meeting, the licensees distributed copies of an FPL/Entergy press release that stated certain issues have arisen in connection with the merger, and the parties will be meeting in the near future to address these issues. No further information was provided.

NRC staff did not identify any major obstacle to meeting the requested date, but a detailed review of the submittals will not be completed for a few months. Action on the Indian Point 1 and 2 licenses will be held in abeyance until Entergy completes the purchase of these units from Con Edison.

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE A

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (GGNS)

On March 14, 2001, the NRC issued Amendment No. 145 to GGNS Operating License No. NPF-29. This amendment authorizes revision of the GGNS licensing basis and Technical Specifications by approving a full scope implementation of the alternate source term (AST) described in NUREG-1465, "Accident Source Terms for Light Water Nuclear Power Plants." This represents a significant technical milestone, and a precedent setting regulatory action. GGNS will be the first Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) plant to move ahead with full-scope implementation of the AST, after participating in AST rulemaking activities as the BWR subject of the NRC rebaselining initiative, and as a "pilot plant" in developing a comprehensive full-scope application of the AST. Implementation of this change is expected to result in significant improvement in operational efficiency and safety, and in recurring cost savings over the remaining life of the plant.

Oconee Nuclear Station

The licensee continues to grind and repair crack indications found in the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) penetration welds and nozzles attached to the reactor vessel head on Oconee Unit 3. The licensee expanded the examination to nine additional CRDM penetrations after all nine of the original CRDM penetrations examined were found to have abnormal indications, but no new rejectable indications were found. Based on this result, the licensee has determined that further expansion of the scope of the inspection to additional CRDM penetrations is not necessary. The licensee has determined that the root cause of the crack indications is primary water stress corrosion cracking. NRR, Region II, and the resident inspectors are actively involved with the licensee to resolve the abnormal indications and address the generic implications.

Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant

On March 16, 2001, the Board of Commissioners of Orange County (BCOC), North Carolina, filed a request with the Commission for an Emergency Stay of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's (ASLB's) March 1, 2001, ruling. The ruling terminated the Harris proceeding and authorized the issuance of the spent fuel pool amendment for the Harris plant. On March 16, 2001, BCOC also filed a petition for the Commission to review the ASLB's May 5, 2000, ruling on the technical contentions, in its August 7, 2000, ruling which admitted the environmental contention, and its March 1, 2001, ruling on the environmental contention. The staff will be filing an answer to the BCOC's requests.

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station

The Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) has been evaluating, with participation by the Vermont Department of Public Service, an agreement between the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (VYNPC) and the AmerGen Energy Company regarding the sale of Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. On March 15, 2001, the PSB formally closed the docket and VYNPC terminated its sales agreement with AmerGen. VYNPC stated that it continues to get information showing that an auction is the best way to maximize the value of the plant in a sale and for this reason decided to conduct the sale via an auction. The Rutland Herald newspaper stated that William Sherman, state nuclear engineer with the Vermont Department of Public Service, said he expected that in addition to the four previous known interested parties (Amergen, Entergy,

Dominion Resources, and Constellation Nuclear), he understood that Duke Power is interested in participating in the process to purchase Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The Rutland Herald newspaper also reported that VYNPC said that Nuclear Management Co. has come forward in the past couple of weeks expressing interest in the plant.

Generic Fundamentals Examination Website

The Operator Licensing and Human Factors Branch has developed a new Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE) Website. The GFE website provides access to:

- Both GFE question banks (BWR and PWR),
- All GFEs administered since February 2001, and
- General information about the GFE program.

The GFE question banks are a collection of over 3000 validated test items used on the PWR and BWR GFEs administered since the inception of the GFE program in September 1988. The website allows viewing or downloading questions for an individual topic, category, or an entire GFE question bank for each reactor type.

Federal Radiological Protection Coordinating Committee Retreat

The NRC staff participated in a Federal Radiological Protection Coordinating Committee (FRPCC) retreat held at the Hall of States, Washington, DC on March 7-8, 2001. The FRPCC is chaired by FEMA and includes members from 16 federal agencies with roles and responsibilities for responding to radiological incidents in the United States. The purpose of the retreat was to discuss the FRPCC purpose, organization, and goals to determine whether these have been effective and to identify enhancements that would improve the Committee's effectiveness for the future. The Committee also discussed a number of radiological preparedness issues to determine how the Committee might influence the resolution of the issue, as well as an action plan and time frame for addressing the issue. Issues discussed of particular interest to NRC were implementation of the potassium iodide (KI) rule, emergency preparedness for decommissioning plants, and resolution of the One Voice initiative. The Committee was briefed by a NRC representative on the current status of development of the KI implementation program, on the NRC's Spent Fuel Pool Risk Study, and implications for emergency planning for decommissioning plants. The committee was informed that these two issues are being resolved through joint NRC/FEMA subcommittees under the auspices of the NRC/FEMA Steering Committee. The committee expressed interest in updates on these issues at future FRPCC meetings. NRC staff requested a commitment from the Committee on approval of the Federal KI Policy which was distributed for comment at the last FRPCC meeting (1/17/01). The committee committed to vote on approval of the Federal KI Policy at the next FRPCC meeting scheduled for May 8, 2001. The Federal Response subcommittee committed to provide an update of the work on the One Voice initiative at the May meeting, to provide a proposal for comment to the full committee at the July meeting, and to finalize the proposal to bring back to the Commission at the July meeting.

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management

The Republic of Ireland ratified the International Atomic Energy Agency's Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management this week, bringing the number of ratifications to 25. As a result, the Convention will enter into force on June 18, 2001, and a preparatory meeting will be convened before the end of the year. The purpose of the meeting is to establish schedules and guidelines for the National Report review meetings. The National Report is one of the main provisions of the Joint Convention and is to address the status of the regulatory infrastructure, the scope and extent of spent fuel management, and the status of radioactive waste management including disposal. The Joint Convention was sent by the White House to the Senate for advice and consent on September 30, 2000.

Meeting with United States Enrichment Corporation

On March 19, 2001, the Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards issued a Certificate of Compliance amendment for the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant approving the higher assay upgrade project (HAUP) certificate amendment request. The amendment authorizes the facility to increase its assay limit to 5.5 weighted percent. The Paducah facility started its ascension test on March 20, 2001, to last until the end of April 2001. During this test, USEC will increase the assay to close to 5.0 wt percent for a short period of time prior to powering down the plant for the summer months.

Meeting with Department of Energy on Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Issues

On March 22, 2001, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards staff met with Department of Energy (DOE) staff to discuss general issues related to the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX) program. DOE staff indicated that the plutonium immobilization project was being suspended to reduce the total DOE construction costs for the Pu Disposition Program for the FY 2003 to 2006 time period. Suspension of the immobilization project is not expected to adversely impact progress on the MOX project. During that time period, construction of the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility and the pit conversion facility is being planned. DOE staff also anticipated that there may be questions at the Environmental Impact Statement scoping meetings for the MOX fuel fabrication facility in mid-April 2001, that will focus on DOE programmatic issues, including the suspension of the immobilization project. NRC staff indicated that it would be desirable if DOE would be available to respond to questions, but was not planning on a formal participation role for DOE.

Coordination on Interim Activities at the Atlas site in Moab, Utah

On March 19 and 22, 2001, NRC staff participated in teleconferences with the DOE, the State of Utah, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on interim activities necessary to protect the public health and safety and to prepare DOE for custody of the uranium mill tailings site in Moab, Utah. The NRC staff described these activities in correspondence with the State of Utah, DOE

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE B

and FWS, and expects prompt resolution of any differences, to allow implementation of these activities in the near future. Public concerns arose recently following high winds in Moab, Utah, which resulted in some dust transport off the top of the tailings pile.

Agreement in Principle for Transfer of Restricted Release Sites

On March 16, 2001, the Director of the Division of Waste Management and DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology signed an Agreement in Principle to seek development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would define the criteria and process that each agency would use to make determinations regarding the potential transfer of a site consistent with Section 151(b) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The MOU would be signed by the NRC Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and DOE's Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management. The NRC staff has started to work with DOE staff on the draft MOU.

Public Meeting Hosted by the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry

On March 20, 2001, the Division of Waste Management staff participated in an "open house" style public meeting in Washington, Pennsylvania, hosted by the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR). Other agencies participating included the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the public an opportunity to ask questions concerning ATSDR's health risk assessment for the Molycorp, Washington, Pennsylvania, Site Decommissioning Management Plan site. The study had been conducted at the request of a concerned citizen. The ATSDR study found: a) radiation levels both on and off site are not likely to cause harmful health effects; b) the estimated levels of radiation released as a result of licensed operations were not high enough to be harmful; c) contamination of the buried municipal water line on the Molycorp site is not likely; d) ATSDR could not identify an association between health problems, including cancer, and the radiological contamination at the site; and e) the site does not pose a public health threat from exposure to radiation by coming near the site or accidentally breathing or eating dust from the property. The ATSDR is recommending that it review environmental monitoring data collected during cleanup activities to evaluate the data for public health impact. The public comment period for this study is open until April 30, 2001. Approximately 15 people attended the four hour session. Attendees included local elected officials, television and newspaper reporters, and interested citizens. The public did not raise any substantive issues or concerns.

NEI Workshop on 10 CFR 72.48 Implementation

On March 16, 2001, the Spent Fuel Project Office conducted a 10 CFR Part 72.48 implementation workshop with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). The goal of the workshop was to assure a smooth transition to the new requirements of 10 CFR 72.48. The workshop consisted of the NRC and industry presentations on the revised rule, regulatory guide, implementation guidance, and a discussion of examples. The workshop was well attended by approximately 80 license holders, certificate holders, and industry consultants.

Department of Energy (DOE) West Valley Certificates of Compliance Amended

On March 19, 2001, the NRC issued amendments to the 10 CFR Part 71 Certificates of Compliance (CoC) for package Model Numbers: TN-BRP and TN-REG to allow full-basket load shipments of spent nuclear fuel. The shipments will be from DOE's West Valley facility in New York to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. The TN-BRP and TN-REG CoCs will expire after the completion of the one-time shipment.

Meeting Regarding New Transport Container for Mixed Oxide Fresh Fuel Assemblies

On March 21, 2001, staff from the Spent Fuel Project Office met with Packaging Technology, Inc. to discuss the design of a new transportation container for unirradiated mixed (uranium and plutonium) oxide fuel assemblies. The package is approximately 2-1/2 feet in diameter, 14 feet long, and weighs approximately 15,000 pounds when loaded with a maximum of three fuel assemblies. The discussion centered on details of the thermal and criticality analyses and the plans for physically testing the package. The testing program is planned for Spring 2002. A full scale test specimen will be subjected to the 30-foot free drop and puncture tests described in 10 CFR 71.73. Packaging Technology expects to submit an application for package approval in Fall 2002.

Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group

On March 20, 2001, representatives from the Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety briefed the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards, Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials subcommittee on the status of the Part 40 Jurisdictional Working Group. The representatives discussed the background of the Working Group, the issues involved, and information on the Working Group's meetings to date. Attendees at the briefing represented the following agencies: Environmental Protection Agency, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Transportation, and Department of Defense. A representative from the State of Illinois also participated in the meeting by telephone.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Advanced National Seismic System Workshop

The Office of Research (RES) staff attended an organizational workshop on the Advanced National Seismic System - Northeast (ANSS-NE) in response to an invitation to Chairman Meserve from Dr. John Ebel of Weston Observatory. The workshop was convened by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Weston Observatory of Boston College, and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University.

The ANSS is an outgrowth of the congressionally mandated National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). Through Public Law 105-47, Congress ordered the USGS to develop a real-time seismic hazard warning system and to conduct a survey to assess regional seismic monitoring networks in the United States. The goals of the ANSS are to establish an advanced infrastructure for seismic monitoring throughout the United States; to continuously monitor earthquakes throughout the United States, including earthquakes that may cause tsunamis or precede volcanic eruptions; to measure strong motion at ground sites and in buildings and critical structures; and to automatically broadcast information on significant earthquakes, including an early warning seconds before strong shaking arrives, when feasible. The ANSS will be organized through several regions in the United States, including the Northeast Region.

The purpose of the workshop was to inform participants of pertinent details concerning ANSS-NE, to discuss the formation of an advisory committee, and to address funding issues. It became clear during the meeting that Federal funding may not be sufficient to establish a complete seismic monitoring system in the Northeast. As a consequence, there was substantial discussion on how to solicit private and municipal funding to complete the system.

A detailed questionnaire was given to the participants. After the responses are evaluated, direction for the ANSS-NE will be further evaluated. No decisions regarding the formation of an advisory committee or regional coordinating group were reached.

Additional workshops at the regional and national level may be held in the future. RES staff plans to continue to participate since this activity can provide valuable information regarding the effects of earthquakes on nuclear power plant structures, systems, and components.

Draft Regulatory Guide on Seismic Soil Liquefaction at NPP Sites

RES has issued Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1105, "Procedures and Criteria for Assessing Seismic Soil Liquefaction at Nuclear Power Plant Sites." This guide is being developed to provide guidance to license applicants on acceptable methods for evaluating the potential for earthquake-induced instability of soils resulting from liquefaction and strength degradation. The guidance includes procedures and criteria currently applied to assess the liquefaction potential of soils ranging from gravel to clays.

Incident Response Operations
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Preliminary Notifications

1. PNO-I-01-007, Christiana Care Health Services, SPILL OF TECHNETIUM-99M.
2. PNO-I-01-008, Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (Vermont Yankee), SHUTDOWN DUE TO FAILED PROTECTION SYSTEM COMPONENT (#37850) - MEDIA INTEREST.
3. PNO-III-01-010, Detroit Edison Co. (Fermi 2), ALERT DECLARED DUE TO SMALL FIRE ON AN EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR BEARING COVER.
4. PNO-IV-01-012, Maxim Technologies, Inc., STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE (#37853).

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE D

Office of Administration
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

2001 Business Solutions in the Public Interest Awards

On March 21-22, 2001, NRC staff participated as screening panelists for the first round of review for the 2001 Business Solutions in the Public Interest Awards. These Awards are sponsored by the Council for Excellence in Government, "Government Executive" magazine, and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. Nominations for the Awards are submitted by civilian agencies as well as agencies within the Department of Defense. Up to 20 potential finalists will be identified by the screening panelists and will appear before a Selection Panel in May. Four to six winners will be selected.

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE F

Chief Information Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests received during the Period of
March 16, 2001 through March 22, 2001:

Individual security records. (FOIA/PA-2001-0182)

Site assessment, NY-50th St. and 9th Ave., 712 9th Ave., NY, NY. (FOIA/PA-2001-0183)

Site assessment, NY-Broome and Broadway, 484-486 Broadway, NY, NY. (FOIA/PA-2001-0184)

Site assessment, NY-First Ave., and 92nd St., 1756 First Ave., NY, NY. (FOIA/PA-2001-0185)

Records on self and other individuals. (FOIA/PA-2001-0186)

OI report 4-2000-029, "NRC Concerns About Chilling Effect at the University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor. (FOIA/PA-2001-0187)

Alligators and/or crocodiles, kept in cooling water used to cool nuclear power reactors.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0188)

Shearon Harris plant, CP&L, spent fuel pool, event report #37036, Holtec Int'l.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0189)

Spent fuel pool accident risk at decommissioning plants, draft report published 1st quarter year
2000. (FOIA/PA-2001-0190)

Allegation file NRR-1999-A-0057. (FOIA/PA-2001-0191)

Allegation file NRR-2000-A-0009. (FOIA/PA-2001-0192)

Site assessment, Stew Leonard's, 1 Stew Leonard Dr., Yonkers Westchester County, NY.
(FOIA/PA-2001-0193)

Chief Financial Officer
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

FY 2001 Proposed Fee Rule

The CFO signed the FY 2001 proposed fee rule on March 19, 2001, and it has been forwarded to the Federal Register for publication the week of March 26 for a 30 day comment period. The proposed amendments to 10 CFR Parts 170 and 171 are necessary to implement the requirements of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, as amended, to recover 98 percent of the FY 2001 budget authority through fees. The proposed annual fees would decrease for most of the categories of licensees, including operating power reactors and uranium recovery licensees. The annual fee decreases are primarily due to the reduction in the NRC's fee recovery requirement from 100 percent in FY 2000 to 98 percent in FY 2001, reduced budgeted costs in some classes of licensees, and increased costs recovered through Part 170 fees. However, the proposed annual fees would increase for some licensees due primarily to increased budgeted costs for those classes.

Other major aspects of the proposed rule are:

The professional hourly rates will be revised to \$144 per hour for the materials program activities and \$150 per hour for the reactor program activities.

The "flat" fees materials users and export and import licenses will be revised to reflect the change in the hourly rate and the results of the biennial review of fees required by the Chief Financial Officer Act of 1990.

Fees for revisions to Part 150 reciprocity requests will be eliminated and the costs included in the reciprocity application fee.

A registration fee of \$450 will be established for generally licensed devices under 10 CFR 31.5 beginning with the first re-registration of those generally licensed devices currently in use (expected to occur in calendar year 2002).

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE H

Office of Human Resources
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Arrivals		
GREEN, Mallory	SR. SYSTEMS ANALYST	OCIO
VALOS, Nicholas	REACTOR ENGINEER	RIII
REECE, James	PROJECT ENGINEER	RII
Departures		
KOVACIC, Joseph	NUCLEAR ENGINEER	NMSS

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE I

Office of Public Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Media Interest

The N.Y. Times is working on a story about steam generator replacements at the Salem nuclear generating station.

Creative Loafing, an alternative weekly newspaper in Atlanta, is working on a story about the Southern Nuclear Company's possible plans to build a new nuclear power plant.

Press Releases	
Headquarters:	
01-033	NRC Seeks Comment on Proposal to Amend Licensing, Inspection and Annual Fees
01-032	NRC To Discuss Apparent Violations With Texas A&M University in Rockville, Maryland, on March 29
01-031	NRC Authorizes USEC to Increase Uranium Enrichment at Paducah, Kentucky, Plant
Regions:	
III-01-011	NRC to Hold Public Meeting to Discuss its Authorization of Uranium Enrichment Activities at Paducah, Kentucky, Plant
IV-01-012	NRC, NPPD to Meet for Regulatory Conference on Potential Yellow Findings at Cooper Nuclear Station

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE M

Office of International Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Visit of Robert Isnard, France

Robert Isnard, Director of Nuclear Safety (Defense) of the French Atomic Energy Administration (CEA), met with NRC staff on March 23. Mr. Isnard is visiting the U.S. for discussions with the agencies involved in nuclear safety of defense activities. NRC staff briefed Mr. Isnard on the NRC pilot program of external regulation of DOE nuclear facilities.

Russian and Ukrainian Attendance at Regulatory Information Conference

As a part of the nuclear safety assistance program, NRC invited two ranking regulators, one from Russia, the other from Ukraine, to attend the NRC Regulatory Information Conference, March 13-15, 2001. Attendance at such conferences provides an efficient means of conveying the latest policies and issues affecting nuclear regulation in the U.S., and for facilitating interactions with the top officials of NRC and industry.

Annual Meeting with Vadym Gryschenko, New Head of Ukrainian Regulatory Body

Vadym Gryschenko and his delegation met with the Commissioners, the Executive Director for Operations, and NRC technical staff during the tenth annual meeting on program planning under the nuclear safety assistance program. On March 23, 2001, Mr. Gryschenko and the EDO signed a Memorandum of Meeting which summarizes the plans for the upcoming 12-18 months. This meeting was particularly timely because of important developments in the Ukrainian nuclear sector resulting from the final closure of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant in December 2000.

Office of the Secretary
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Document Released to Public	Date	Subject
Information Papers		
1. SECY-01-0048	3/22/01	Weekly Information Report - Week Ending March 16, 2001

Commission Correspondence

1. Letter to Sandra R. Galef, New York State Assembly, dated March 12, 2001, concerns resident inspector staffing at the Indian Point 2 and 3 nuclear power stations.

Federal Register Notices Issued

1. Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation); Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI; Notice of Appointment of Adjudicatory Employee.

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE O

Region I
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Training Session on the Best-Cordis Intravascular Brachytherapy System

A representative of Cordis Corporation provided technical training in Region I on the Best-Cordis Intravascular Brachytherapy System on March 12, 2001. The training offered the staff the opportunity to view a videotaped case and to discuss the "hands on" operation of the device and the technical and safety issues related to its use.

Heritage Minerals, Inc. Meeting

On March 20, 2001, Region I staff and management met with licensee representatives from Heritage Minerals, Inc. (HMI) to discuss near-term plans for site decommissioning. This site, in Manchester Township, NJ, is on the Site Decommissioning Management Plan list, and has approximately 700 yd.³ of monazite sand to be disposed at a licensed burial site. The monazite sand was generated as a result of processes involving physical separation of rare minerals. Discussions related to finalizing the decommissioning contract and HMI's plans to dispose of the licensed material and consideration of the decommissioning timeliness rule. HMI's Decommissioning Plan was approved in 1999. HMI stated that contracts were in the stage of final review, were expected to be signed within several weeks, and the remediation would take approximately 4-5 months. A representative from the New Jersey DEP and the Mayor and Business Manager of Manchester Township, NJ also attended.

Region II
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

FEMA IV - Annual Regional Emergency Preparedness Conference

On March 19-22, 2001, the Region II State and Government Liaison Officer participated in the Annual Regional Emergency Preparedness Conference, sponsored by FEMA, Region IV, in Biloxi, MS. With the exception of West Virginia, all States in Region II and the State of Louisiana sent representatives to the conference. Federal Agency participation included FEMA, Regions IV and VI; DOE, EPA, USDA, FDA, and the NRC. Discussion topics included the NRC's reactor inspection program for licensee alert and notification systems and FEMA's approach to a proposal to review licensee's emergency preparedness for a fast breaking event.

BWX Technologies - Commissioner Dicus visits the Site

On March 23, 2001, Commissioner Dicus, accompanied by the Regional Administrator visited the BWX Technologies nuclear fuel facility in Lynchburg, VA. The Commissioner toured the facility, met with the NRC senior resident inspector and met with licensee management on topics related to fuel facilities.

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Region IV
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

Regional Administrator Participates in Workshop

The Region IV Regional Administrator attended a workshop at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy on development and application of small innovative nuclear reactors. He participated on a panel with Michael Golay, MIT, Edwin Lyman, Nuclear Control Institute, Madeline Feltus, DOE, and Kevin Borton, Exelon, discussing social, regulatory and siting issues.

Public Meeting at San Onofre Generating Station

On March 21, 2001, NRC Region IV staff met with Southern California Edison officials at the San Onofre Generating Station training center. The NRC presented the findings of the Special Inspection of the February 3, 2001 Unit 3 electrical fire and the associated partial loss of offsite power. The findings included a determination that plant staff took timely and appropriate action in response to the event and that equipment important to safety functioned as designed. The Special Inspection Team reported a conditional core damage probability of about 1E-4 for the event. The Team reported a valve misalignment that rendered a secondary auxiliary source of feedwater unavailable, and noted some minor command and control problems between the control room operators and the fire brigade. Several newspaper, radio, and television station reporters attended the meeting, open to public observation. Following the meeting, the Region IV staff answered questions from the press for about an hour.

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE P

Office of Congressional Affairs
Items of Interest
Week Ending March 23, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING SCHEDULE, NO. 8

OCA Contact	DATE & PLACE	TIME	WITNESS	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE
Combs	03/27/01 POSTPONED	10:30	DOE	Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Storage Facility–FY02 Appropriations	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Gerke	03/27/01 2123 RHOB	1:00	Sen. Domenici, Dr. Travers, DOE - Mr. Magwood and Ms. Hutzler, Entergy, Exelon, INPO, PIRG	National Energy Policy: Nuclear Energy	Reps. Barton/Boucher Energy and Air Quality Energy and Commerce
Portner	04/03/01 SD-124	10:00	TBA	Nuclear Power Programs	Senators Domenici/Reid Energy and Water Development Appropriations
Keeling	05/08/01 TBA	1:30	NRC	Federal Government's Capabilities to Respond to Terrorist Attacks	Senate Appropriations, Armed Services, and Intelligence Committees

March 23, 2001

ENCLOSURE R